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January 28, 2000 LB 175

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. Senator Brashear, would you like to make any comments on the committee amendments to LB 175?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I would simply remind everyone that the committee amendments were...which are now divided, were, I respectfully submit, an improvement to the bill. And I know I can't get by with such a summary statement in all arguments, but where, for instance, the penalties would have been greater in the green copy, the amounts involved, we reduce them. We lengthen days. We tightened up language involving contested hearings and otherwise generally I think softened the impact of the bill and, as we go through the divisions of it, we'll be able to demonstrate that. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend this first component of the committee amendments. (FA277, Legislative Journal page 485.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as my seatmate said when this bill was announced, fasten your seat belts. Actually, you don't have to because this will be a leisurely stroll today and Monday and perhaps part of Tuesday. But this amendment that I'm offering goes to page 2 of the bill and, in line 11, it's dealing with the existing law. Starting with the word "Any" in line 11 on page 2, strike all language through the word "dog" on...on line 18. What that would do is eliminate not only the proposed increase in this deposit for guide dogs and hearing aid dogs, it would eliminate the deposit that exists in current law. There would be no amount that one of these persons would have to pay. What a lot of those of you who haven't been up against this fail to realize, there are a lot of people who have been passed by forever when there has been a robust economy. Even now, while some people are chortling about how strong the stock market is, how much money